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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPOT COMMENTARY

24 September 2000
14:14 EDT
Spot Comm 3

CIADI SPOTCOMM 000924-1414

FRY Polls Closed, Demonstrations Planned by Both Sides

Most of the polls in Serbia and Montenegro closed on schedule at 2000 (1400 EDT), and 1600 (1000 EDT) in Kosovo, although long lines of voters kept polls open later in some areas in Serbia. There were numerous accusations of irregularities—including inaccurate voting lists, ballot stuffing, inappropriate presence of security forces at polling places, among others--but no reported incidents of serious violence, according to press reports.

- Preliminary independent press estimates are that turnout was unusually high, perhaps 75 percent, while the regime claims turnout as of late afternoon local time was 55 percent. Historically, average turnout is about 60 percent.
- Opposition leaders claimed that no candidate had won the presidential election outright on the first round and that there would have to be a run-off on 8 October.
- Opposition sources claim that turnout in Montenegro, where President Djukanovic had urged a boycott, was 23-25 percent.
- UN officials in Kosovo said that no more than 45,000 had voted, which would represent about three quarters of the local Serb electorate. Kosovo Albanians ignored the voting.

Both the regime and the opposition plan to have rallies in major cities after the polls close, according to press reports. The two rallies in Belgrade will be near each other, ***raising the possibility of violence if, as expected, both sides claim victory.***

There have been no indications that the Yugoslav Military (VJ) or Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP) units are preparing to move against the demonstrators or against the Montenegrin Government as of mid-day Sunday. However, VJ units—mainly naval elements in Montenegro and air defense units in Serbia—continued to take precautions against external attack.

Prepared by: DCI Interagency Task Force. Please direct any questions or comments to

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 06-23-2010

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